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The Ernst family poses for a photo with Santa during the YMCA Wanakita Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, Dec 8. /ADAM FRISK Speical to County Life

December 3, 2024 - January 6, 2025

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A Canadian Christmas

IRV HANDLER

Special to County Life

White Christmas has always been one of my favourite holiday movies. It is a joyous 'Let's put on a show' movie filled with comedy, romance and classic Irving Berlin tunes. But there is one song from the film that resonates with me these days. In the scene, Bing Crosby sings to Rosemary Clooney that when he can't sleep, he counts his blessings instead of sheep. Although not the most popular song in the film, this particular tune seems more relevant the usual during this holiday season. Because, like many Canadians, I count my blessings that I live in this great country.

These are troubled times with conflicts, ethnic tensions and the increased polarization in countries around the world. And while Canada is not immune from these problems, the temperature seems lower here (and not just because of our Northern climate). Canadians seem to be better at being more civil towards each other than many other countries. I don't think this is just happenstance or a reflection of our famously polite Canadian personality. Rather, I think that our kindness is a benefit of our Canadian Mosaic.

The Canadian Mosaic arises out of our national embrace of multiculturalism. It describes our mixing of the different cultures of people arriving from countries around the world to create a unique Canadian culture. The Canadian Mosaic requires goodwill and mutual respect of all peoples within our borders. It forces Canadians to live and work peacefully with people who have different customs and viewpoints. While it doesn't work perfectly, it does work.

The Mosaic has made Canadian curious and welcoming to the different customs and traditions. And Christmas is the time of year where we are most inclined to share with our neighbours.

Food is always a big part of Christmas but what people eat is a reflection of their culture. A typical Canadian Christmas usually involves a large fam-



ily turkey dinner with all the fixings. But for many cultures, fish is a big part of the Christmas meal with Central Europeans eating enjoy carp (in the belief that the fish's scales bring good luck in the coming year) while Italians partake in the Feast of Seven Fishes that features salted cod, shrimp and calamari. Eating salted cod at Christmas is also a Portuguese tradition and the tradition spread to Newfoundland where they eat Fish and Brewis which is made from salt cod, hard tack bread, potatoes and onions. Mexicans prefer tamales at Christmas, Ethiopians serve a traditional Doro Wat, a spicy chicken stew served with a sourdough flatbread, and the Swedish are famous for their Christmas smorgasbord that typically includes meatballs, herring and a large Christmas ham. Even Canadians who do not celebrate the religious aspects of Christmas still want to be part of the holiday fun. I frequently go out for Chinese food on Christmas day and I am always delighted to see the restaurant filled with Jews, Muslims, Hindus and Asian people. The Japanese are relatively new to Christmas and as a result of effective marketing campaigns, have taken to eating a special KFC Christmas bucket for their holiday meal. Britain's famous contribution to Christmas cuisine is the ubiquitous Christmas cake which everyone seems to have but nobody ever seems to eat.

Customs also vary across ethnicities. Christmas par-

ties are the most common type holiday celebration. And whether they call it a Christmas, Hannukah, Kwanza or just a Holiday party, virtually every workplace, school, club, community organization, family and group of friends has their own party. A gift exchange is common at these parties with many people making a game of gift giving. A friend once had a White Elephant gift exchange where everyone brings the ugliest, most useless item from their homes to pass on to an unsuspecting guest. My friend never repeated the game because he discovered everyone left their White Elephants at his home to dispose of at the end of the party. My favourite gift giving game is the steal-a-gift where you have a choice of opening an unwrapped gift or "stealing" a gift that another guest has already opened. Nothing is more fun than watching the popular gifts circulate around the room. I once scored a set of *Simpsons* figurines in such a game.

The gift exchange will usually take place under a festively decorated a Christmas tree. Tree decorations are as varied as the people who decorate them. Some trees have a dominate theme or colour. My wife likes a blue theme on a Christmas tree. Others lovingly decorate their trees with family heirlooms or handmade decorations created by their children and remain in use long after their children are grown with kids of their own. Not every culture, however, decorates a tree. Evergreen trees are not indigenous in many parts of the world so some African cultures hang up palm branches. The Greeks, with their long association with the sea, decorate a lit-up boat next to their Christmas tree. Germans like to decorate their homes with fine carved wooden figurines. Portuguese leave their shoes by the fireplace for Father Christmas to fill with gifts while the British famously hang stockings.

So many of our modern Christmas traditions originated in other cultures. Virtually every community now has a local version of a festive Christmas market, which originated in Germany. Advent calendars can be found in every supermarket and drugstore in Canada but originated in Switzerland. Giving poinsettias originated in Mexico where it is believed that the leaves are shaped like the star of Bethlehem.

No matter how you celebrate the holidays, let's all be grateful for our family, friends, co-workers and neighbours who live in this great country of Canada where we are free to share the joy of the season. So, this Christmas, be sure to share the joy with someone you love. Merry Christmas to all.

CountyLife

The following inserts are
being distributed with
County Life this week:

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For information on how your flyer can
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please contact Melissa Armstrong
at **613-332-2002** or
melissa@haliburtonpress.com

With Our Thanks at the Holidays

From all the Staff at

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This year has been an eventful transition year for the
Burden family, they are very appreciative of all the
support that the community has given them.
Thank you all!

www.wgsc.ca





Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season filled with warmth, laughter, and treasured memories.

MEET OUR LOCAL HALIBURTON AGENTS:

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Elves around the County



Elf on the Shelf
Many families around Haliburton County (and beyond!) partake in an annual Elf on the Shelf tradition, where a curious elf visits their home for the month of December, and shares their observations with Santa Claus as Christmas approaches. Check out some of the merriment and mischief that a few local elves got into! All photos submitted.



Happy Holidays from the BALL team!

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Send your letters to the editor to
vivian@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed
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Editorial

A Christmas magnifying glass

“I ALWAYS THINK that Christmas is a bit like an emotional magnifying glass. If you feel loved and happy, Christmas will make you feel even happier and more loved. But if you feel alone and unloved, the magnifier gets to work and makes all those bad things bigger and worse.”



EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

I listened to these words while I was simmering a pot of noodles for our weekly Spaghetti Sunday dinner. The kids had just turned on the newest Netflix movie, *That Christmas*, which was sort of like a delightful play on *Love Actually*, just with a more child-friendly age rating.

The focus of the film revolved around different people, going about their different lives. While each seemed to have things together on the surface, in reality, they all had some individual struggles that they navigated through, just in time for Christmas.

Something that struck me about this particular film though, is that while it was narrated through the eyes of Santa Claus, the core of the storyline had nothing to do with him.

Nothing to do with presents or reindeer or elves. While they played a part in the magic of the movie,

they were not the focus.

Instead, the crux of the film was the beauty of community; the need to lean on others, the ability to connect, in good times and bad.

Because they were right: Christmas is an emotional magnifying glass. It brings things to the forefront of our thoughts. Pent up feelings, subdued emotions, familial baggage, transparent realities.

Many people don't have a home to cuddle up in over Christmas; whether that be due to physical or emotional barriers. Some have memories tainted by past experiences. There may be others who are navigating their first Christmas without a loved one; a hole not only at the dinner table, but in the heart, as well.

I find myself to be emotionally charged this time of year; everything amplifies when feelings run hot. This year, I even happily teared up when I watched the downtown traffic inch slowly down Main Street a few weeks ago; each driver pausing to donate to our local firefighters in a blizzard. A toy or a coin; whatever they had on-hand to help out.

So here is my annual reminder to give yourself grace. To slow down. To take it all in. Or to take a break, until it's all over. When so much weight is added to expectations and anticipation, it ties an anchor to happiness; a constant pull from flying free.

It's not easy for everyone. In fact, I don't know anyone who truly enjoys every part of this time of year. Like any other time, it has highs and lows, ups and

downs. Just this time, it's all magnified; blown up in a reverie fit to burst.

When I feel the tug of the anchor, the pull of sadness that can seep into these magnified days, I find it helps to focus on what's good.

And the beauty of this time of year is that there is so much good. The sparkle of magic that flutters around children, the comfort and crackle of old movies, the desire to give back, to help when needed, to support our neighbours; kindness forever at an all time high at Christmas.

This year, SIRCH is once again offering a Christmas dinner on Dec. 25 at SIRCH Bistro. An opportunity to connect with your community, to celebrate together, and to ring in the holidays in a place you are safe. All are welcome.

Because of the magnified state of emotions around the holidays, when I received the press release for that turkey dinner, I once again warmly teared up.

To me, that offering is what Christmas is all about. Being together, connecting community, and offering a space that is warm, welcoming, and inviting.

There is a peace to that, and everything that comes with it. We need to lean on others, have the ability to connect, in good times and bad.

So, from our *County Life* family to you, I hope you are able to find a little magic this Christmas.

There is beauty this time of year, if we are ready and willing to look for it.

Top 10 things Santa's elves secretly hope for

THIS IS THE time of year when our thoughts turn to Santa's elves and all they do. Of course, the problem is we don't really know much about them. Instead, we imagine them as the stereotypes depicted in popular TV shows and story books. Luckily,

I spent a little time embedded in an elf assembly line in early December and learned a little more about them. With that in mind, here are the top 10 things that every elf secretly hopes for.

1. The Grinch to win, just once.
2. To land an executive position with the Keebler company.
3. To negotiate better holiday hours.

4. A more realistic depiction of elves in the Lord of the Rings books and movies.
5. No more dangerous deployments on shelves.
6. To be paid in dollars rather than Mrs. Claus' cookies.
7. The right to wear clothing that isn't green.
8. To break the yokes of oppressor.
9. The right to wear safety boots at the workplace instead of those little pointy-toed numbers.
10. To speak in their normal voices instead of the high, squeaky ones they are contractually obligated to use.



STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

Sanctuary

Sapling springing from a pillow of Snow, swathed in silence in its forest Home,
 surrounded by pines, growing alongside one another their entire lives,
 Moon glow bathing their branches, laden with Snow, as the forest sleeps,
 the earth seeping deeper into itself, preparing for winter's rest, deer hooves dimpling the Snow,
 leading to a tree, where they sleep in a heap, the forest, their sanctuary, that they share with the trees, year
 after year,
 sheltering beneath their branches, like the sapling, its first winter in the forest, amongst the seasoned pines,
 their spines battered by Wind and storm, the silence, splintered one morning by the caws of a crow,
 warning of the interloper that's trespassing across the forest floor,
 pine roots shivering beneath the earth, branches swaying as Wind weaves through them,
 the sapling quivering amongst the pines, feeling something it can't yet know,
 as boot steps plod through the Snow, branding its forest Home, pausing at the sapling before passing it by,
 a giant hand ruffling its needles, dusting off a clump of Snow, the intruder leaving their scent behind,
 as the fragrance of pine lingers on their fingers, and the forest holds its frozen Breath,
 wondering which one of them is next, as the interloper follows the deer prints, stopping at a pine,
 the gnawing of saw teeth reverberating through the whole forest, reaching roots, cowering underground,
 the sound making the sapling shiver, as it squats beneath the pines,
 the silence that spreads long after, louder than the saw, and the knowing that another one of them is gone,
 dragged away from the forest, towards that strange place where lights glimmer and trees shimmer,
 placed in windows where candles glow instead of the Moon,
 where the pureness of forest Air is replaced by the stillness of Inside,
 and dancing eyes drink in the tree that's decorated like a fancy lady,
 while back in the forest, the family of pines, sighs, the sapling, wondering, Why,
 as snowflakes tumble from midnight Sky, blanketing its branches and the earth,
 and the stump where the tree used to grow, that stares out the window at the falling Snow,
 wondering when it will return to the sanctuary of its forest Home.

Sylvie Kalenda

Christmas is (almost) here again, don'tcha know

DEAR READER,
Oh the weather outside
is frightful, but the fire is
so delightful. Do those words sound
familiar to you? Well, I'm not sur-
prised. They're lyrics to the song: *Let
it Snow*. And boy, has it been snowing
here in Lake WhaddayathinkI mean.
So much so, that my truck, Brewster,
has gone on strike. That's
right. He won't move. He
won't even purr for me.
Why, I keep digging him
out every morning, but
no, he's not moving 'til
flowers bloom again.

Now, ol' Maybelle knows that feeling only too well, especially in my right arm that aches from doing most of the shoveling. But, there is a silver lining. When the sun comes out and glistens on all that white stuff, it's a beautiful, almost magical thing. And, dear reader, it's here for us just in time for Christmas, don'tcha know.

Why, one of the things I love about Christmas is sending cards and gifts to my dear friends and family. The operative word being: SEND. But, now with the Postal strike on... why, the best ol' Maybelle can do is hand deliver what I can to folks who live right here in Lake W. And with Brewster on strike, oh brother, this

is a conundrum. I mean, how about all those socks and booties I've been knitting for months to send to family who don't live in Lake W -- in Vancouver, and cousins in California and even Maui? Well, unless Santa zooms by early to pick them up and deliver them for me, it looks like they just might be collecting dust 'til the postal strike is settled. And, I hope for everybody's sake, it ends sooner than soon.



Fireside stories

In the meantime, yours truly is going to be baking up a storm. Cookies, and banana bread chock full of chocolate bits and cranberries, don'tcha know. And like always, ol' Beanpole will come by and we'll flap our lips over tea and freshly baked calories. And Vilma Yuccch will come by with her sweetheart, Officer Stanley Penelope McBottom. And of course, Twindle Mumbly and Sybil Beaucannon Hughes will round out our core group of longtime friends.

Another thing I love about Christmas – there's no such thing as being too corny by letting folks you love, know how much you love them, don'tcha know. It's a holiday that gives us permission to let people know how much you appreciate them

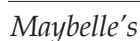
and think about them and wish them well. It's an opportunity to bring a little light into people's lives. I sure know how wonderful it feels to be on the receiving end of it, and how much more wonderful it feels to be the giver.

With that in mind ... the times they are a changin'. And, with so much of the news of the world being dark and troubling, our challenge is to see it, watch it but not be it ... rather, be in the Light as much as possible.

Remember what joy feels like and consciously look for it and re-live it every day in the smallest of things and the smallest of ways.

This, Dear Reader, is my Christmas wish for you, don'tcha know.

Maybelle's Fireside Stories is written by Jerelyn Craden. "Maybelle's Cure for What Ails You," 21 of Maybelle's best short stories, and "Vessie Flamingo Outshining the Moon" (a novel) is now available at www.amazon.com.



Fireside stories

Join us for a warm and joyful Christmas dinner at SIRCH

Will you be on your own this Christmas? Or are you interested in helping out and enjoying a community dinner?

Come and be part of a special Christmas celebration where the doors are open, the food is delicious, and the company is friendly. We're hosting a free Christmas dinner, with turkey and all the fixings! If a full meal isn't your thing, feel free to drop by just to say hi.

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 25

Dinner: 4 to 7 p.m.

Social Hour: 3 to 4 p.m.

Location: SIRCH Bistro & Bakery, 49
Maple Ave. Haliburton

Generously sponsored by Todd's Independent.

Whether you're looking for a great meal, a welcoming space, or just some cheerful company, we'd love to spend the holiday with you. Everyone is welcome – come as you are!

If you're looking for more information,
call SIRCH at 705-457-1742 or visit www.sirch.on.ca.

Submitted

THERE'S GNOME



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from all of us at Haliburton Timber Mart

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***We look forward to your
continued support!***



Holiday update from Point in Time

While the physical offices of Point in Time and the Haliburton Youth Wellness Hub will be closed from Monday, Dec. 23 to Friday, Jan. 6, Point in Time workers will be available for individuals with urgent needs or requiring crisis supports during this time period.

Youth and families who have urgent needs or require crisis supports between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. can call Point in Time at 705-457-5345 and press 8 to speak with a crisis worker. If you have urgent needs or require crisis supports outside of these hours or on Dec. 25, 26, or Jan 1, please call or text Community

Crisis Response Service at 1-855-310-COPE (2673.) You will be connected with a trained CRISIS response worker who will review your immediate needs and direct you to the appropriate supports in your area.

If you need immediate holiday support that is not crisis related, please call 705-457-5345 and press 3 to speak with an office team member. Our physical offices will re-open on Monday, Jan. 6.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

Submitted by Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents



Happy Holidays

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&
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MY GIFT TO YOU!

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ICE SKATING

A. J. LARUE ARENA, HALIBURTON
DECEMBER 24TH @11AM-12PM
DECEMBER 29TH 2PM-3PM
JANUARY 5TH 3:30-4:30PM

S.G. NESBITT MEMORIAL ARENA, MINDEN
DECEMBER 23RD @3PM-4PM
DECEMBER 30TH @10:30AM-11:30AM
JANUARY 3RD @2:30PM-4PM

Happy Holidays!
I'm thrilled to give back to this amazing community by
sponsoring 6 free public skating sessions.
Bring your family and enjoy the ice!

COURTESY OF

KAREN NIMIGON
BROKER, SRS, ABR, SRES

CENTURY 21
Granite Realty Group Inc.



Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.



Deer submitted by Tammy Nash



A Common Starling submitted by Jill Moulton



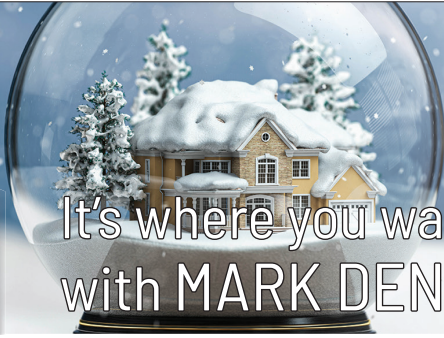
Merry Christmas!

MPP Laurie Scott

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*"Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from My Family to Yours"*



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Submitted by Jill Moulton



A Pine Marten submitted by Tammy Nash

There's a kind of hush

DEB REED
County Life contributor

Our county clouds have recently released some generous storybook snow upon us. We peer through windows and see a sleepy Canadian winter as much of the world understands it. Painterly shadows of lavender and grey, muffled distances, swelling hearts. Trees wear mysterious sudden bathrobes - hotel-quality - and beam with pride of fresh uniform, matching every other tree, connected and puffed-up like natty soldiers in precious secret consolidation. There is metaphor of peace on earth, of pleasant unity, and of supernal beauty.

This happens every year. We expect it. We link it to childhood. We're not quite ready to run away south. We feel as quiet as those trees, serene and subdued under a quilt of December. Memories are near, tears even closer, faith just a bit softer, safer and extra tangible. Kids adore this since life takes on a cloak of holiday, of indoor evenings and eye contact, of slippers and TV baking specials, movie specials, special shopping and visiting... everything just feels so ... special.

I try to avoid clichés like 'special', 'storybook' and 'magical' since they're often first to gush out as I look about! Winter is so different from summer's extroverted greens. Words advertise our awe, as well as art and music. Photographers wouldn't photograph if there weren't a special magical storybook outside.

I was a Grade 5 teacher for over three decades. Pretty

much only and always Grade 5. Those kids are inevitably amazing. Open-hearted, open-minded, trusting, funny, receptive and loving. Fewer storms of youth and changes. Smaller rage and madness. Life has yet to consume and exhaust them, so they still get pretty excited by magic, as long as their teacher remembers to read aloud and do art every single school-day. Words and pictures are what we do. They're the strongest part of beauty.

Age 10 is a sweet in-between. We get to enjoy their ephemeral episode of innocence, of humour, of affection at the edge of that hormonal forecasted hurricane. They now have wisdom enough to want more wisdom, and they remain cozy enough to still adore school. I'm not entirely sure why they hired me way back at age 23 when I was still pretty much 10-years-old myself. But I could speak passable French, was already certified in ESL, and there was a huge new inner city demand for both.

Frederick is my strongest student memory this time of year. He'd be middle-aged by now. He'd never been to school, and had emigrated from the Caribbean to live with his grandmother in Toronto. He was already an exceptional sprinter, and he loved painting what he saw. When first snowfall silently began beyond our gigantic classroom window, he bolted from his math, tears of amazement, incredulous grin and small sobs quivering. The whole class then and there stopped its own lesson to learn much more about priorities.

A reverent hush hides in all of us, and Grade 5s already know how to find it. Hanging onto it is what counts.

Highest rated Christmas movies

According to online forum
Rotten Tomatoes

- 20. A Christmas Story (1983)
- 19. Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale (2010)
- 18. Edward Scissorhands (1990)
- 17. Jingle Jangle: A Christmas Journey (2020)
- 16. Tokyo Godfathers (2003)
- 15. Arthur Christmas (2011)
- 14. Little Women (1994)
- 13. The Apartment (1960)
- 12. The Guardians of the Galaxy Holiday Special (2022)
- 11. Die Hard (1988)
- 10. It's a Wonderful Life (1946)
- 9. Carol (2015)
- 8. Klaus (2019)
- 7. Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)
- 6. Little Women (2019)
- 5. Miracle on 34th Street (1947)
- 4. Tangerine (2015)
- 3. The Holdovers (2023)
- 2. The Shop Around the Corner (1940)
- 1. Meet Me in St. Louis (1944)



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Lance & Debbie, Chris and Ryan

Keeping the holidays light

KATE BUTLER

Special to *County Life*

With the holiday countdown in full swing, it can feel as if there are so many activities we need to pack into a few scant weeks and that every part of the season has to be perfect, because as the saying goes, "Christmas comes but once a year." If you're feeling a little frazzled, I just want to give you a reminder that extending some kindness to yourself and keeping a sense of humour can go a long way. In fact, those holiday mishaps which seem dire in the moment can become the tales we laugh about in the years that follow.

I recall one Christmas several years ago when I had chosen an ambitious dessert for Christmas Eve - a towering mountain of cream puffs held together with caramel. Just as I was in the midst of assembling it, my uncle walked into the kitchen and asked me about what I was doing. A moment's distraction was all it took to turn the liquid caramel on the stove into one solid candy in the bottom of the pot! The caramel filled pot was deemed a lost cause, as was the spoon that was fused to it, and they eventually made their way to the rubbish. All was not lost however, thanks to some chocolate I found in the fridge and to be honest, I think it did the job even better than the caramel would have. I haven't made that dessert for Christmas since, but each time I think of it, it still gives me a laugh.

Sometimes it can feel like we need to have a bit of magic up our sleeves during the holidays. You might need to buy some time because of a culinary mishap or to distract everyone because personalities are clashing or someone has brought up politics at Christmas dinner.

I've assembled a few bits of historical holiday trivia you can share in those moments which I hope might make things seem brighter again. It's difficult to imagine the holidays without bright lights both indoors and out. While we may know that candles were the precursor to today's electric holiday lights, did you realize that strings of electric Christmas lights actually date all the way back to 1882? They were invented by



In a photo that lives at the Haliburton Highlands Museum, a group of women snowshoe the area around the holidays in Haliburton. /FILE

Edward Hibberd Johnson, who was building on the inventions of his friend Thomas Edison. How about a bit of trivia to sweeten the holidays? Did you know that candy canes were invented in Germany in the late seventeenth century? The original treats were white, with their distinctive stripes only coming later. According to some accounts, they were first intended as a way to keep small children occupied during long church services. This next bit of trivia might keep your holiday gathering humming along: it's often been claimed that that ubiquitous holiday classic, Jingle Bells, was writ-

ten as a song for a Thanksgiving service in 1857. In contrast, some people have suggested that it might have been a drinking song instead, which, if you consider all the lyrics, actually seems more likely. It is known, however, that the first recorded performance of Jingle Bells was captured in 1889, and it was one of the first songs ever broadcast from space in 1965.

However you're celebrating the holidays this year, I hope your celebrations are filled with kindness, fun, laughter and people and activities that make you smile! Happy holidays everyone!

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Holiday artwork by students at Stuart Baker Elementary School



A student sharing their excitement for Christmas Eve.



Madame Brown's Grade 3 class. A pencil and pastel perspective piece: "A worm's eye view of a snowman"



May you find health,
happiness and peace
during the holiday
season and through
the coming year.



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Merry Christmas

From all of us at
SIRCH
community services



Elves around the County



HOLIDAY RECYCLING

Recycling for Containers

Rinse all containers and ensure they are clean of liquids or food

- Aluminum foil and trays
- Metal food cans
- Beverage cartons
- Plastic bottles (caps can be left on)
- Plastic candy, fruit, veggie trays

Recycling for Papers

- Paper gift wrap
- Paper gift tags
- Paper gift bags (remove string)
- Christmas cards & envelopes
- Cardboard rolls
- Cardboard boxes (flatten)

Garbage

- Metallic or foil wrapping paper
- Ribbons, bows, tape
- Styrofoam shipping block
- Bubble wrap
- Broken ornaments
- Plastic toy packaging (hard-to-cut material)

Dysart Landfill Holiday Hours

Tuesday, December 24, 2024 (Christmas Eve) 8 AM to 12:30 PM: West Guilford 9 AM to 12:30 PM: Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay Closed: Haliburton	Tuesday, December 31, 2024 (New Year's Eve) 8 AM to 12:30 PM: West Guilford 9 AM to 12:30 PM: Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay Closed: Haliburton
Wednesday, December 25, 2024 (Christmas Day) Closed: All Dysart Landfills	Wednesday, January 1, 2025 (New Year's Day) Closed: All Dysart Landfills
Thursday, December 26, 2024 (Boxing Day) 10 AM to 5 PM: Haliburton, West Guilford 12 noon to 5 PM: Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay	Thursday, January 2, 2025 8 AM to 5 PM: Haliburton 9 AM to 2 PM: Harcourt, Kennisis Lake, West Bay Closed: West Guilford

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f i x in

Community Events

Send your event listing to
classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Christmas Eve Service

When: Christmas Eve at 7 p.m.
Where: Eagle Lake Community Church

Recurring events

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly

When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of \$59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Bridge for Seniors

When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Room
All welcome

Haliburton Legion Walking Group

When: Mondays at 9 to 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
A safe walking environment. Lead by an Occupational therapist.

Free Balanced Fitness and Active Social Senior Classes

When: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Bid Euchre

When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All welcome!

Seniors Chair Exercises

When: Thursdays at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
Please join us for safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

Cards/Euchre/Cribbage

When: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: St. George's Church
617 Mountain Street

Lakeside Church Service

When: Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Where: 9 Park Street, Haliburton.
Whoever you are, wherever you've been, you are welcome here.

Weekly Meat Rolls

When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
Five spins for \$10. The first four rounds are for highest and lowest score with two winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for \$2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.



Everleigh Jones from Minden, checks in on her elf.

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Holiday artwork by students at Stuart Baker Elementary School

Madame Brown's Grade 3 class. A pencil and pastel perspective piece: "A worm's eye view of a snowman"



Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid euchre 1 p.m.
Cornhole 7 p.m. (upstairs)
Ladies darts 7:30 p.m. (downstairs)
Tuesday: Coffee and chat 9 to 10:30 a.m.
Wednesday: Coffee and chat 9 to 10:30 a.m. Mixed darts 7:30 p.m. Canteen opens at 6 p.m.
Thursday: General meeting (3rd week) Members only 7:30 p.m.
Friday: Chair yoga 10 a.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. Supper special every week. Canteen opens at 4 p.m.
Saturday: Meat draw 5 p.m. Canteen opens at 3 p.m.
Sunday: Ladies Auxiliary meeting (members only) third Sunday every month at 2 p.m.
We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you.

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo starts at 7 p.m. First Wed of each month - \$1000 jackpot, rest will be a \$500 jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend. Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets \$2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome!

Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m. Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541. Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Tree of Warmth: The Legion is accepting donations of new mittens, scarves and hats. The donations will be provided to Wilberforce and Cardiff schools.
Monday, Dec. 30 - Darts 7 to 10 p.m., \$5/person
Thursday, Dec. 19 - Indoor Cornhole 7 p.m., \$5/person
Friday, Dec. 20 - Wings and Jam 5 to 8 p.m., \$15/person
Saturday, Dec. 21 - Meat Draw 3 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 31 - New Years Eve Dance Party \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members. Food provided, Spot Dance Prizes, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.
Closed from Dec 22 to 28
No darts on Dec. 23 and no meat draw on Dec. 28
Hours: Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Closed, Wednesday: 2 to 6 p.m., Thursday: 2 to 10 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.

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Holiday artwork by students at

Mr. Campbell's Grade 3 class. Snowflakes, made to represent how unique and special all their students are

MERRY
Christmas
& HAPPY
New Year



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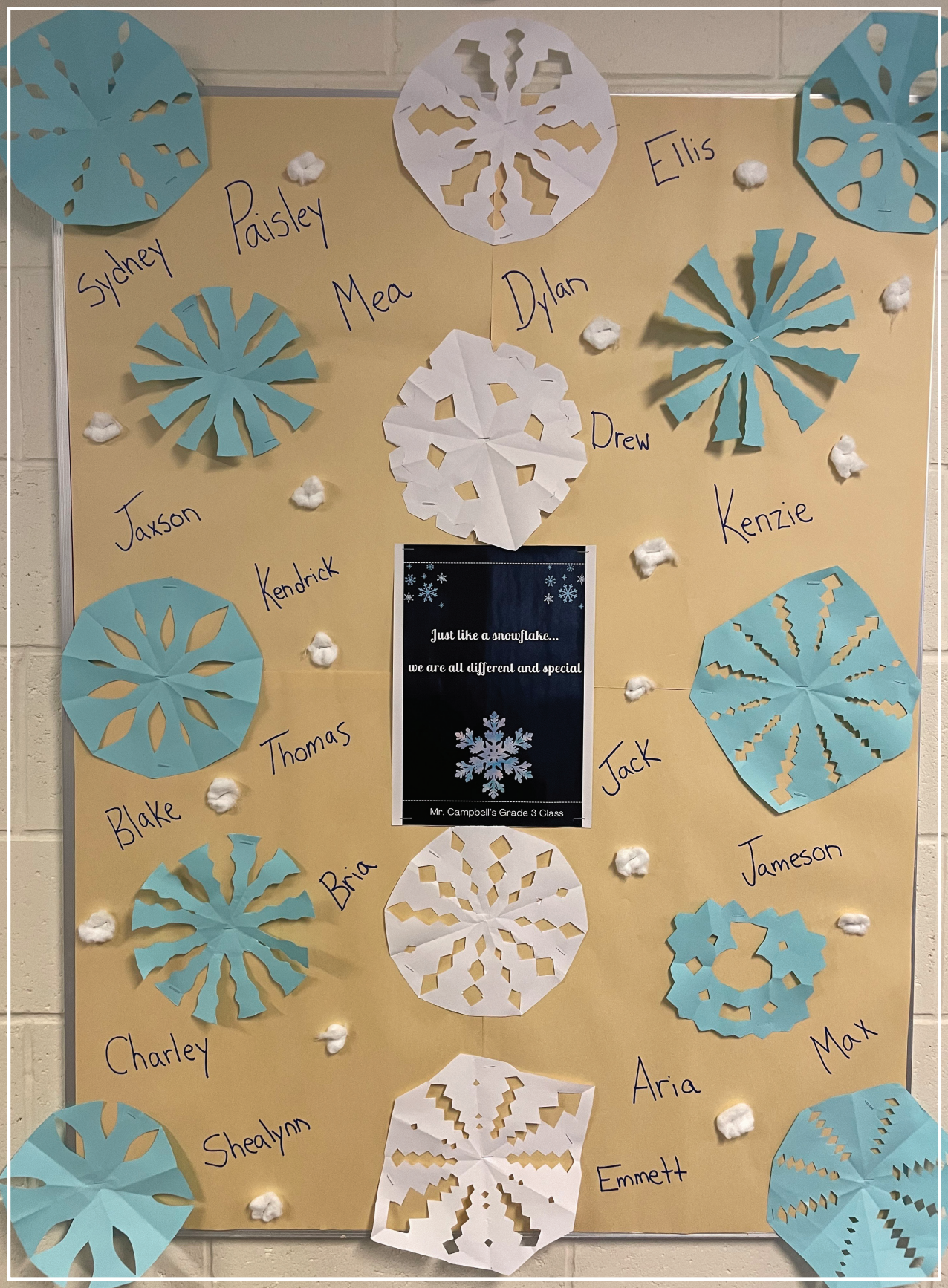
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Stuart Baker Elementary School

Madame Brown's Grade 3 class. A pencil and pastel perspective piece:
"A worm's eye view of a snowman"





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Madame Brown's Grade 3 class. A pencil and pastel perspective piece:
"A worm's eye view of a snowman"



Holiday artwork by students at



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Winner will be notified by phone.

Contest open to all legal residents of Ontario. Adult prize winner(s) must be 19 years of age or older. Grand prize winner receives a total of \$1500.00 (one thousand, five hundred dollars) in gifts certificate(s) from any Haliburton BIA member. Gifts certificate(s) can be one in the full amount of \$1500, or multiple denominations of no less than \$100. The grand prize total is not to exceed \$1500. Ballots must be received by authorized Haliburton BIA merchant. Prize must be accepted as awarded and may not be substituted or converted to cash.



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Stuart Baker Elementary School

Madame Brown's Grade 3 class. A pencil and pastel perspective piece:
"A worm's eye view of a snowman"





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and a Happy New Year*

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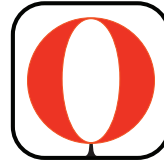




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Haliburton Home Hardware Building Centre’s December Artist feature, Luca Vaccalluzzo AKA Luca the Wooden Warrior

We’re happy to have Luca Vaccalluzzo AKA Luca the Wooden Warrior as our artist of the month for December.

Luca has set up a charming display of his handcrafted mini canoes, maple leaf coasters, and engraved coasters featuring local animals and lakes. Also featured are serving boards and bath caddies - all great gift ideas!

With over 30 years of wood working and tree expertise, Luca doesn’t just create beautiful furniture and gift items, he also offers certified and insured tree service. Luca can be contacted at lucathewoodenwarrior@gmail.com for custom orders or tree services.

Featured Colour: True Blue Hue

Calling local Artists! We are now booking artists for 2025 and would love to see your creations. Please reach out to karley.gazley@homehardware.ca for more information.

Drive safe this winter

The Central Region of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) reminds drivers to slow down, stay alert, and stay in control.

Winter driving conditions can be unpredictable, with icy roads, heavy snowfalls, and reduced visibility creating challenges for drivers.

The snowfall is expected to continue throughout the season in central Ontario. Slow down and adjust your driving to the current road and weather conditions and leave extra space between vehicles as stopping distances are more than double on snow or ice-covered roads.

The OPP reminds motorists to ensure they are prepared for any situation by carrying a survival kit in their vehicle. To learn what to include in your survival kit, visit the Ministry of Transportation’s (MTO) Winter Driving page. Recommended items include a shovel, blanket, warm clothes, food, booster cables, flashlight, high energy foods, matches and a candle.

Ensure your cell phone is charged at all times in order to contact emergency services if you experience trouble. If you are in a life-threatening situation, call 9-1-1. Please call the OPP non-emergency number, 1-888-310-1122 for all other matters.

Visit the MTO website for up-to-date information on road conditions and closures at www.511on.ca.

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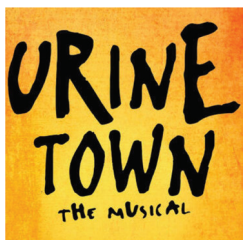
Happy Holidays
From Our Team



705-457-3837



For our 25th Anniversary season the Highlands Summer Festival presents five glorious productions designed to rekindle your love for live theatre. Story-telling, to delight, entertain and fascinate, all five productions for only \$175....it is almost like getting one show for free.



The summer season opens with the satirical but a little off-the-wall musical, *Urinetown*. It all starts with the sixteenth letter of the alphabet, P. The letter which speaks for itself or, when spelled out, pee, is the central theme to this fast-paced musical. *Urinetown* is a metaphor for the over-arching intrusion of big corporations into all aspects of our lives as the plucky citizens fight back. With music and lyrics by Mark Hollmann, and book and lyrics by Greg Kotis, the cast makes its case against the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, and municipal politics with music, humour, and boycotts even as several love stories emerge from the mayhem.

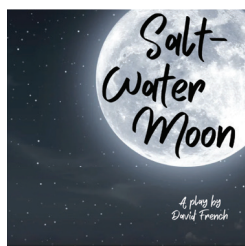
Opening July 1st through to the 8th.



Outstanding musicianship and energetic staging that will leave you calling for more – *The Fitzgeralds* have been dazzling audiences for years. We are delighted to include The Fitzgeralds in

this summer's program, which will feature their lightning-fast fiddling and some equally mesmerizing footwork.

Opens July 9th for 3 performances.



For our third show, we turn to the production which opened the Festival 25 years ago, the award-winning *Salt-Water Moon*. We chose this quintessential Canadian play by David French to kick off the inaugural HSF season. Set in Newfoundland eight years after the end of the First World War, this is a touching love story with the conflicted young lovers over-lain by the memory of the horrors of the war, changing roles for women in society and technological advances. The story of *Salt-Water Moon* resonates as strongly today as it did when we first presented it on our stage in the summer of 2000.

Opening July 15th running to the 22nd.



Accusations, mistaken identities, and romances run wild in this traditional, laugh-out-loud farce, *Drinking Habits*. Two nuns

at the Sisters of Perpetual Sewing have been secretly making wine to keep the convent's doors open, but Paul and Sally, reporters and former fiancées, are hot on their trail. They go undercover as a nun and priest, but their presence, combined with the addition of a new nun, spurs paranoia throughout the convent that spies have been sent from Rome to shut them down. Drinking Habits, by Tom Smith: wine and secrets are inevitably spilled as everyone tries to preserve the convent and reconnect with lost loves. (This production contains mature themes. Recommended for ages 13 and up. There is no official rating system for live theatre. We encourage you to use your judgment based on your child's age and maturity level.)

Opening July 27th to August 1st.



Feeling Buble: "Jay was amazing!! What a wonderful performance! He has such a wonderful voice and he had Michael Buble's moves down to a T." Be a part of this feel-good performance of music featuring Michael Buble's greatest hits performed by Jay Davis and his world-class jazz band.

Opening August 3rd for four performances.

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On-Air Testing on 97.1 FM in Minden!

Canoe FM is excited to announce that **Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)** has authorized us to begin on-air testing of the permanent transmitting facilities at our repeater station, **CKHA-FM-1**, broadcasting on **97.1 FM** out of **Minden, Ontario**.

Testing will begin on **December 17, 2024**, and will conclude no later than **January 28, 2025**.

We value your feedback during this testing period. If you have any **comments or concerns**, please reach out to us by:
Email: manager@canoefm.com
Phone: 705-457-1009

After the testing has been approved 97.1 Minden & 100.9 Haliburton will be permanent frequencies in our County.
Thank you for your support as we improve Canoe FM's reach to serve more of our amazing community!

Canoe FM – Community Radio - The Voice of the Haliburton Highlands.

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A child poses for a photo with Tony the Tiger at the YMCA Wanakita Breakfast with Santa event.



Dougie Cowan, 2, enjoys the finishing game with his mom.

Breakfast with Santa

More than 500 Highlanders turned out for the YMCA Wanakita Breakfast with Santa event on Saturday, where families and residents were treated to food, fun and laughter. /ADAM FRISK Special to County Life



Ruby Walt, 6, gets her face painted while her mom, Tiffany watches on.



Everli Bain, 6, poses for a photo with a snake wrapped around her.



A family poses for a photo during the YMCA Wanakita Breakfast with Santa.

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&
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With the passing of the year,
we also take time to remember the passing of
our friend, husband, father,
grandfather and good guy:
our very own Santa Claus,
Gord Monk

May every family be blessed with such wonderful memories.
THE MONK & CRAY FAMILIES

Child car seat safety: what parents and caregivers need to know

Bancroft Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) reminds parents and caregivers of the critical importance of properly securing children in car seats, particularly during colder months. Ontario’s child car seat laws and manufacturer recommendations are designed to maximize safety for young passengers, ensuring that they are properly protected in the event of a collision.

Never be in a hurry to move your child to the next stage of child car seat, let them outgrow the height or weight limit of their current car seat.

Always install your child car seat in the backseat, away from active air bags.

Ontario’s Child Car Seat Laws

1. Infant Car Seats (Rear-Facing):

Use until the child weighs at least 9 kg (20 lbs).

Safety Tip: Keep your child rear-facing as long as possible. Rear-facing seats provide superior head, neck, and spine protection in the event of a collision.

2. Convertible or Forward-Facing Seats (with Harness):

Use after outgrowing the rear-facing infant car seat.

Required until the child weighs at least 18 kg (40 lbs).

Safety Tip: When used forward fac-

ing, always use the tether strap.

3. Booster Seats:

Use when the child weighs at least 18 kg (40 lbs) and until they are 8 years old, weigh 36 kg (80 lbs), or are 145 cm (4 feet 9 inches) tall.

Installation Tip: Ensure the lap belt fits low over the hips, and the shoulder belt crosses the chest and sits centered on the shoulder.

4. Seat Belt Only:

Children can use a regular seat belt when they meet any of these criteria:

8 years old

36 kg (80 lbs)

145 cm (4 feet 9 inches) tall

Position: Safest in the back seat until age 13 due to the risk posed by front-seat airbags.

Airbag safety reminder

Rear-Facing Seats: Never place a rear-facing car seat in the front seat with an active airbag. The force of airbag deployment can be fatal.

Forward-Facing Seats: If a child must sit in the front seat, deactivate the airbag if possible, or move the seat as far back as allowed by the vehicle’s manual. You must consult the manufacturers manual of both the vehicle and car seat before doing so.

Winter coats and car seat safety

Winter Coats and Harness Safety:

Avoid bulky clothing under the harness. Winter coats and puffy jackets, while keeping children warm, can interfere with the proper tightness of the car seat harness. The bulk can create space between the child and the harness, which may cause injury in a collision.

Proper Harness Fit:

Ensure the harness is snug and the straps lie flat against the child’s chest. A simple test is to pinch the harness straps at the collar bone-if you can pinch the straps between your fingers, the harness is too loose. The chest buckle should be positioned at armpit level.

Alternative Solutions:

- Dress in thin layers under the harness, then place the coat or jacket over the car seat after the child is properly secured

- Heavier Coats: If you need to use a heavier coat, take it off while traveling and have a blanket or use the heavy coat as a blanket for the trip

Importance of Manufacturer Recommendations

- Follow the Car Seat Manual: Each car seat model has specific installation instructions regarding seat angle, harness fit, and weight limits

- Check the Vehicle Manual: Vehicles may have unique instructions for car seat installation, including where to place the seat and how to properly use anchors or seat belts

- Proper Fit and Installation: Ensuring the car seat is installed correctly can reduce the risk of injury by up to 71 per cent. Always refer to both manuals for detailed guidance

Penalties for Non-Compliance

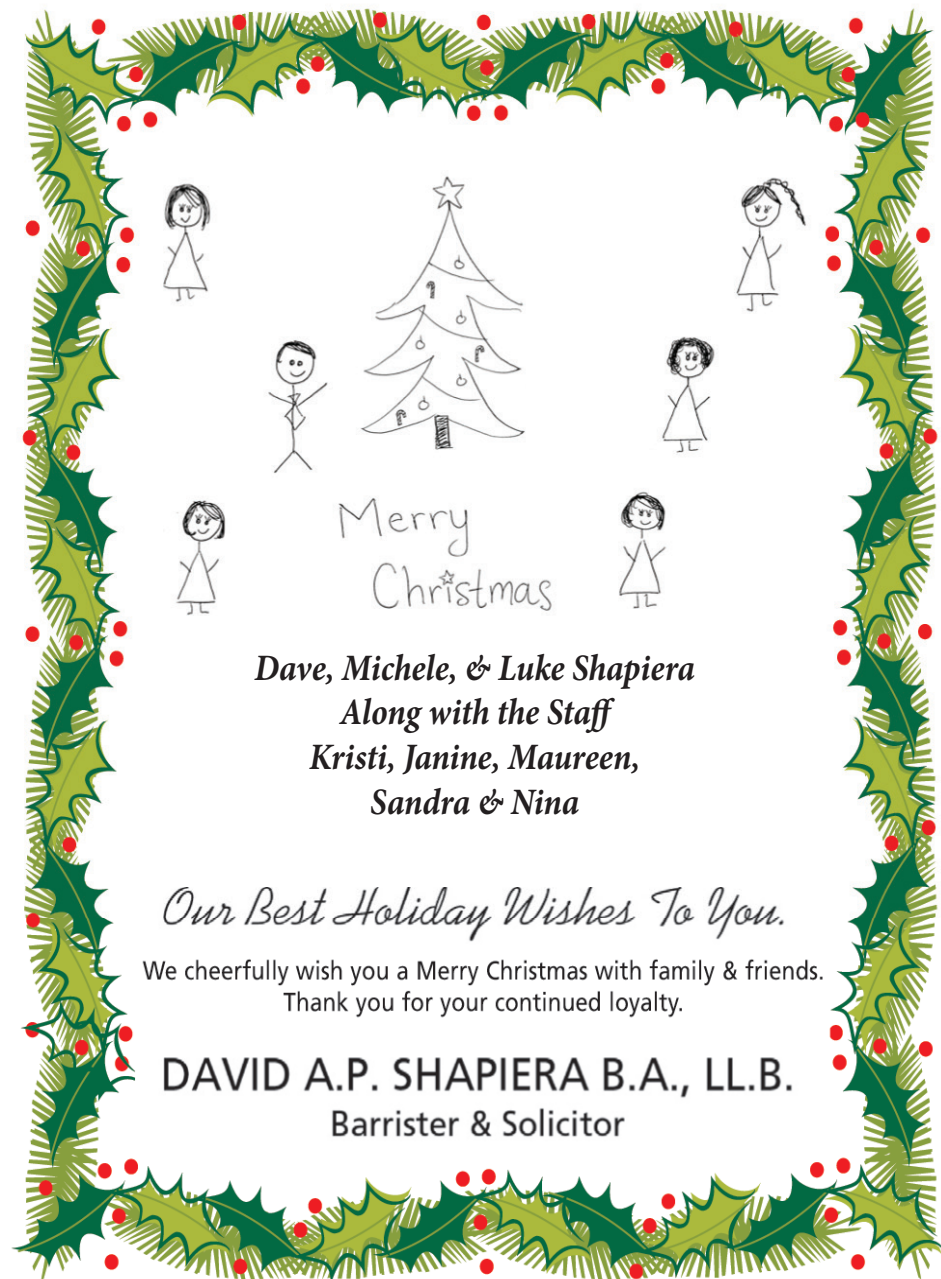
Drivers are responsible for ensuring children under the age of 16 wear a seat-belt and children under the age of 8 are properly secured in the correct child car seat or booster seat. Failing to comply with Ontario’s child car seat regulations can result in a \$240 fine and two demerit points.

Further Information

For more details on child car seat safety, visit the Ontario Ministry of Transportation website [Ontario.ca/CarSeats](https://ontario.ca/CarSeats) or contact your local police detachment.

Let’s work together to ensure every child’s safety on the road.

Submitted



Merry Christmas

Dave, Michele, & Luke Shapiera
Along with the Staff
Kristi, Janine, Maureen,
Sandra & Nina

Our Best Holiday Wishes To You.

We cheerfully wish you a Merry Christmas with family & friends.
Thank you for your continued loyalty.

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CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS IN DYSART

- Take your photo with this gnome
- Email the photo to recreation@dysartetal.ca
- There are eight (8) gnomes hidden in and around the Village of Haliburton. Visit www.dysartetal.ca/gnomes for clues on where to find the other gnomes.





Municipality of
Dysart et al



@dysartetal
#DysartGnomes

Oh gnome! Celebrate the holidays

This holiday season, the Municipality of Dysart et al invites families, friends, and visitors of all ages to experience the magic of the season with a whimsical and fun-filled event – the Gnome Scavenger Hunt.

This unique holiday activity invites participants to explore the Village of Haliburton, in the Municipality of Dysart et al, where hidden gnomes are scattered across the area.

From Dec. 20, 2024 to Jan. 6, 2025, eight festive gnomes on printed signs have been tucked away in secret locations!

Families and participants are encouraged to snap pictures with the gnomes they discover and email the photo to recreation@dysartetal.ca for a chance to win prizes.

Download the free blue sheet at www.dysartetal.ca/gnomes. Or pick-up a free clue sheet at the Haliburton Welcome Centre (7 York Street), Dysart Branch of the Haliburton County Public Library (78 Maple Avenue), and the Haliburton Highlands Museum (66

Museum Road).

It's a perfect way for families to come together, explore our beautiful community, and celebrate the festive spirit. Whether you're a local or a visitor, we welcome everyone to join in on the fun and find the gnomes!

For more information on the Gnome Scavenger Hunt and other Celebrate the Holidays events, please visit www.dysartetal.ca/gnomes or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, X and Threads @dysartetal #DysartGnomes

Event Details:
What: Celebrate the Holidays in Dysart et al
When: Dec. 20, 2024 to Jan. 6, 2025
Where: Eight locations throughout Dysart et al
Cost: Free! (prizes available)
Media Contact:
Andrea Mueller
Manager of Programs and Events
705-457-1740 x.635
recreation@dysartetal.ca

Submitted



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Gerald & Krysta, Ron, Jenn, Nathan, Kevin, Greg, Alex, Dan, Brandon, Cody, Braeden, Eric, Tyler, Nathan H. and Josef

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Haliburton
BIA Administrator



Job Summary:
The Haliburton Business Improvement Area (BIA) is seeking an enthusiastic and organized Administrator to play a vital role in supporting the BIA's mission to enhance the vibrancy and success of Haliburton's downtown business community. This role involves member engagement, event support, communications, and collaboration with key stakeholders to ensure smooth operations and the successful execution of BIA initiatives.

Key Responsibilities:
Member Engagement:

- Conduct regular in-person visits with BIA members to foster strong relationships, address inquiries, and gather feedback.
- Welcome new members with in-person orientation sessions, providing essential resources and information.
- Provide timely updates to members about BIA activities, events, and initiatives through newsletters, emails, and other communication channels.

Event Support:

- Assist in the planning, coordination, and execution of BIA events, ensuring seamless operations.
- Promote events through newsletters, social media, and the BIA website to maximize member and community participation.

Communication & Administration:

- Manage all communications received through the BIA email and respond promptly and professionally.
- Maintain and regularly update the BIA website with relevant and engaging content.
- Create and post event promotions, updates, and announcements on BIA social media platforms.
- Attend BIA meetings, take accurate minutes, and distribute them to members within 24 hours.

Collaboration:

- Work closely with the BIA President and Secretary to align efforts and ensure the effective operation of BIA initiatives and events.
- Foster a collaborative environment to support the collective goals of the BIA and its members.

Qualifications:

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, with the ability to engage with a diverse group of members and stakeholders.
- Proven organizational and time-management skills, with a detail-oriented approach to tasks.
- Proficiency in social media management, website maintenance, and email communications.
- Experience in event planning and coordination is an asset.
- Self-motivated, proactive, and able to work independently with minimal supervision.

Working Conditions:
This is a part-time position with flexible hours, including occasional evenings or weekends to support events. The role involves both in-office and in-community responsibilities, requiring travel within Haliburton.

How to Apply:
Interested candidates are encouraged to submit their resume and a cover letter detailing their qualifications and interest in the position to brandon.nimigon@c21.ca. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

Join us in shaping a vibrant and thriving downtown Haliburton!



Home Game



VS



Saturday, Dec. 21 - 4 p.m.

Upcoming Home Games



Sunday, Dec. 29
2 p.m.



Tuesday, Dec. 31
2 p.m.

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

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INSIDE
THIS WEEK:

AN ECHO WELCOME
Newspaper introduces new group publisher
and general manager

A HOCKEY COMEBACK
Ther Red Hawks have got their groove back
after 6-1 win over St. Thomas Aquinas

THIS IS CHRISTMAS?
Why have we bought into the idea that
Christmas is about shopping?

THE

ECHO

HALIBURTON COUNTY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2005

VOL. 122 No. 49 \$1 INCL. GST

Curlers
need
bigger
house

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

For most curlers, a love of the sport is matched by a love of getting together afterwards to rehash the game and socialize.

At the Haliburton Curling Club, this combination of passions has been both its biggest drawing card and, more recently, its biggest challenge.

When the club hosts large bonspiels it's literally standing room only in the clubroom that overlooks the four rinks. There's simply not enough room to host everyone.

So, just as curling has grown in popularity over the past few years, the club now has to grow.

On Saturday afternoon, president Chester Howse unveiled the plans for a 2,800 sq. ft., two-storey expansion. He also joked that club members should have their chequebooks handy. The new addition will cost \$400,000.

"We have no choice; we have to expand," Howse told the roughly 60 club members present. "We'll have to do some work and raise some money but I know we can do it."

The club got a big boost from Dysart et al when Reeve Murray Fearrey announced the municipality was kickstarting the campaign with a \$100,000 donation.

"Haliburton is growing and it's going to be the greatest place to live in Ontario," Fearrey said. "I want to thank you for being part of this.... It's part of seeing this community grow."

The money will come from Dysart's parks and recreation fund. This is money the municipality

See **New club** page 9



MARTHA PERKINS/Echo

Christmas cuppa

Local Bed and Breakfasts opened their doors on the weekend to share the Christmas spirit and raise money for the local food banks. Visitors were treated to tours of fancifully decorated homes and lots of goodies. Pam Smith's kitchen is appropriately festooned with teacups as she invites Peter Brogden to enjoy a cup of cider. More photos on pages 10 and 11.

Local
women
missing
out on
cancer
screening

LANCE CROSSLEY
Staff Reporter

Not enough women in Haliburton County and its neighbouring municipalities are getting mammograms.

In fact, only half the women in this region aged 50 to 74 are getting screened for breast cancer, a percentage that does not nearly approach what health experts feel is an ideal target.

"We would like to see 100 per cent of women 50 to 74 getting routine mammography," says Anne Marie Holt, an epidemiologist at the Port Hope office of the HKPR District Health Unit. "The reason for that is that mammography is an effective screening tool for early detection of cancer, which in turn translates into earlier treatment and better outcomes."

The information was detailed in a recent health unit report that discussed cancers occurring in the area served by the Haliburton-Kawartha-Pine Ridge District Health Unit. The findings were first presented at a board of health meeting in November.

The HKPR percentage is only slightly worse than the provincial average (where 56 per cent of women in that age group get mammograms) but the statistic undoubtedly leaves room for improvement. The low breast-screening rate is due in part to that fact that the HKPR district has very few sites with the Ontario Breast Screening Program, a clinic where women are able to book a mammogram as opposed to getting doctor approval. (The closest one to Haliburton County is in

See **County's** page 9

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